

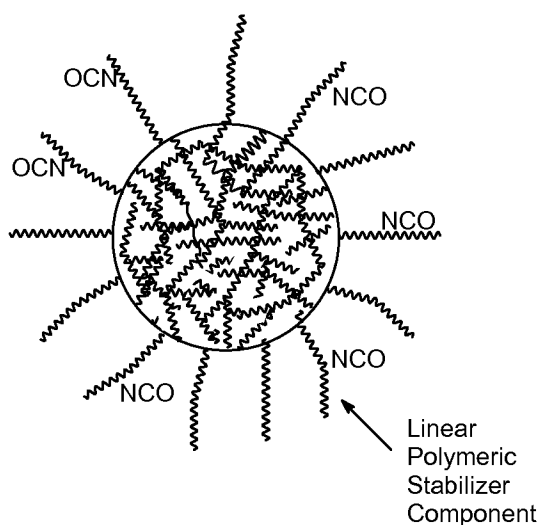
REMARKS

Claims 16-18, 22-24 and 26 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of US Patent No. 7017264.

Claim 16 requires (1) a gelled acrylic polymer wherein said gelled acrylic polymer is dispersed in an organic liquid carrier, and consists essentially of:

- (i) a crosslinked core comprising polymerized ethylenically unsaturated monomers, wherein the core is not soluble in the organic liquid carrier, and
- (ii) linear stabilizer polymeric components chemically grafted to said core, wherein said linear stabilizer components have weight average molecular weights in the range of about 500-20,000 as determined by GPC (gel permeation chromatography) using polystyrene as standard.

Applicants would like to point out that the present case is a divisional filing of US 6,632,880, serial number 09/901,394. For the parent case, applicants filed a response to an Office Communication filed on February 26, 2003, showing an idealized structure of the claimed gelled acrylic polymer. The idealized structure is shown below;



This idealized structure shows the crosslinked core, represented by the area inside of the circle, and the linear stabilizer arms, represented by the lines extending from the crosslinked core.

In contrast, US7071264 does not disclose the claimed gelled acrylic. US 7071264 discloses a branched polymer and shows an idealized structure on column 7 lines 30 through 50. The currently claimed gelled acrylic polymer and the branched acrylic polymer are not the same.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/Brian J Myers/

BRIAN J MYERS
AGENT FOR APPLICANTS
Registration No.: 58,281
Telephone: 302 892-0728

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